

**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2005 9:38 PM

**Subject:** Some thoughts

Hi Scotty, good seeing you/se guys at the last meeting. After going over the latest 160 plans, I let my thoughts roam and came up with a few ideas. Paul D. may be interested in some of my thoughts:

Being somewhat red-green color blind I had a bit of trouble reading the bar charts with those pastel earth colors and where confusing colors were side by side. Stronger colors of blue, yellow and orange, and perhaps gray, would be easier to read in my case.

On the Irrigation Methods tables, the accuracy of the numbers can't justify showing tenths. The data are only estimates and not measured values.

I have trouble with continued farming of the organic soils in the Delta especially when I see ships traveling 25 feet over my head. . Those soils will continue to oxidize and deplete as long as they are cultivated. I know that mentioning restricting farming is a sensitive issue in that farming area but the thousands of miles of levys in questionable condition might not be repaired in time to prevent breaks during floods. Those islands, especially the ones protected by fragile levys, might be systematically purchased by federal and state governments, retired from farming and allowed to revert to native vegetation. Allan Aguilar (Central District) had an interesting suggestion as an alternative.

Allowing substantial amounts of expensive water released to flush and freshen the SF bay may have limited value. The south bay somewhat stagnant with little circulation and releasing environmental water to improve quality may not serve that purpose other than for repelling bay salinity. (I wonder if studies were ever made on water circulation in the south bay and how much Sacramento River water would be expected to improve quality in this part of the Bay). The only addition of fresh water may come from the two river systems discharging into the South Bay during storms.

I fall into the group advocating the development of additional water storage capacity in Northern California. Conservation may have limitations in compensating for future requirements and to refill depleted aquifers. Per capita water use has increased throughout the state from the time of first reporting of use until the past ten years where unit use has been level but has not declined possibly indicating the limited affect of conservation. It's difficult to visualize that additional conservation can match the increasing demand due to an expanding population.

Conservation in agriculture may also have reached a point of declining benefits. A number of crops like pasture, rice and cotton don't lend themselves to drip and micro sprinkler irrigation. Large acreages of trees and vineyards are already irrigated by these two methods and their expansion in use may eventually decline. Further reduction in rates of water use may be limited but encroachment of urbanization may reduce water use and may be a more significant factor.

There are still a number of good dam sites other than raising Shasta to increase water supplies.

Dick Wagner